

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 253361 TOSEC 160329

NODIS

FOL REPEAT MADRID 7413 SENT ACTION SECSTATE OCT 24, 1975

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7413

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR' PBOR' MO, SP, SS

SUBJECT: SAHARA

REF: RABAT 5115, RABAT 5114

1. I SAW CORTINA THIS EVENING AS A RESULT OF A REQUEST I HAD
MADE YESTERDAY TO OBTAIN AN UPDATING ON THE SAHARA SITQATION
IN THE LIGHT OF SOLIS' VISIT.

2. I SAID I HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT SPANISH POLICY ON THE
SAHARA HAD PERHAPS CHANGED. CORTINA SAID NO, THERE HAD
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BEEN NO CHANGE. FROM THE BEGINNING SPAIN HAD ALWAYS SAID

THAT IT WOULD TAKE THE MATTER TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL IF
THERE WAS A THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY (THIS IS CORRECT).
HASSAN'S MARCH IS JUST THAT CORTINA SAID A THREAT TO THE PEACE.

3. CORTINA WENT ON TO SAY THAT WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT
THE SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD NOT TAKE FIRM ACTION TO END THE
THREAT TO THE PEACE, SPAIN WAS FACED WITH THE NEED, IN THE
ABSENCE OF U.N. ACTION, TO PROTECT ITS INTERESTS IN LINE
WITH ITS DETERMINATION TO GET OUT OF THE SAHARA
PEACEFULLY AND THUS HAD MOVED TO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH
MOROCCO. INDEED, CORTINA SAID, THE SECURITY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION JUST PASSED MADE REFERENCE TO THE DESIRABILITY
OF SUCH NEGOTIATIONS.

4. CORTINA SAID THE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WERE A RESULT OF
THE FAILURE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO TAKE ADEQUATE ACTION.
HE RECOGNIZED THE ALGERIAN INTEREST AND THE FACT THEY WOULD
NOT ACCEPT A SETTLEMENT IMPOSED ON THE SAHARAN PEOPLE BUT
THE PRINCIPAL OBJECT OF THE EXERCISE NOW, ACCORDING TO
CORTINA, HAD TO BE TO FIND SOME WAY TO GET OUT OF THE
DANGEROUS IMPASSE WITH THE MOROCCANS. HE ALSO RECOGNIZED
THAT IF SPAIN AND MOROCCO SHOULD REACH AGREEMENT, ALGERIA
MIGHT WELL BE DISCOMFITED. HE ADDED THAT SPAIN HAD NEVER,
EXCEPT IN ONE STATEMENT IN 1974, REFERRED TO INDEPENDENCE
OF SAHARA. SUBSEQUENTLY REFERENCE HAD BEEN MADE TO SELF-
DETERMINATION WITH INDEPENDENCE AS AN OPTION. SPAIN HAS
ALSO NEVER REFERRED TO ALGERIA AS AN QUOTE INTERESTED PARTY
UNQUOTE BUT ONLY AS A QUOTE BORDERING STATE WITH INTERESTS
UNQUOTE. CORTINA COULD NOT PREDICT HOW THE NEGOTIATIONS
WOULD COME OUT. HE WISHED TO MAKE CLEAR THAT SPANISH
POLICY WAS TO GET OUT PEACEFULLY AND HONORABLY FROM THE
SAHARA. IT WAS THE INABILITY OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL
TO TAKE MEANINGFUL ACTION THAT HAD IMPELLED SPAIN TO
ATTEMPT THIS SET OF NEGOTIATIONS.

5. WE HEAR FROM OTHER SOURCES THAT LARAKI WILL BE
COMING ON SATURDAY AND THAT SOLIS DID ACHIEVE A DELAY
IN HASSAN'S BEGINNING THE MARCH. STABLER

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL
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